



Passenger Van Driver Training

METOC

16 AUG 2012

References:

DOD INSTRUCTION 6055.4

SECNAVINST 5100.10J

OPNAVINST 5100.12H



Desired Objectives

Context

Drivers of passenger vans are required to have training to improve operator skills and awareness

Desired Outcome

Drivers are aware of the unique handling characteristics of passenger vans and better prepared to operate them safely



Agenda

- ***National Highway Traffic Safety Administration***
- ***12 & 15 Passenger Van Safety***
- ***Seat Belt Use***
- ***Drug and Alcohol Use***
- ***Cell Phone Use***
- ***Fatigue***
- ***Crash/Near Hit***
- ***Backing***



National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

- ***Recognizes that 12-15 passenger vans have a higher risk of crashes and rollover if not properly driven and maintained***
- ***Increased rollover risk due to***
 - ***Inexperienced drivers***
 - ***Improperly sized or inflated tires***
 - ***Improperly loaded cargo and passengers affecting center of gravity***





NHTSA Top Safety Recommendations

- ***Tire Pressure***
 - ***Tire failures (primarily **under inflation**) are leading cause of rollover***
 - ***Inspect tires for wear and check tire pressure before every trip***
- ***Driver Qualifications***
 - ***Requires training and experience***



NHTSA Top Safety Recommendations (Cont.)

- ***Driver Attention***
 - ***Driver should be well rested***
 - ***Prohibit cell phone use when in motion and limit conversation with passengers to stay attentive to driving***
- ***Speed***
 - ***Speed should be based on driving conditions***
 - ***Never exceed speed limit***
 - ***Always lower speed on wet roads or poor visibility***



NHTSA Top Safety Recommendations (Cont.)

- ***Size of Vehicle***
 - ***Requires more space to maneuver vehicle***
- ***Occupancy***
 - ***Never more passengers than seatbelts provided***
 - ***When van is not full, passengers should sit in seats in front of the rear axle***



NHTSA Top Safety Recommendations (Cont.)

- **Cargo**
 - ***Place forward of rear axle***
 - ***Avoid loading cargo on roof***
 - ***Never tow a vehicle***
 - ***See vehicle owner's manual for maximum weight limits***
- **Seat belts**
 - ***All occupants must wear a seat belt***



Passenger Van Characteristics

- ***All manufactures include the driver when describing max occupancy of vans***
- ***Substantially longer, taller and wider than a car***
- ***Requires more space and additional reliance on the side mirrors for changing lanes***
- ***Does not respond as safely to abrupt steering or braking maneuvers***
- ***The more weight you have, the longer it takes to stop***
- ***The higher the speed you are traveling, the longer it takes to stop***



Following Distance

- ***Maintain a cushion of safety around the vehicle (no traffic on all sides)***
- ***Drive in the right-hand lane whenever possible***
- ***Recommended safe following distance:***
 - ***When weather, road and visibility conditions are good, maintain 4 seconds behind other traffic***
 - ***When weather, road and visibility conditions are bad, maintain at least 6 seconds behind other traffic***

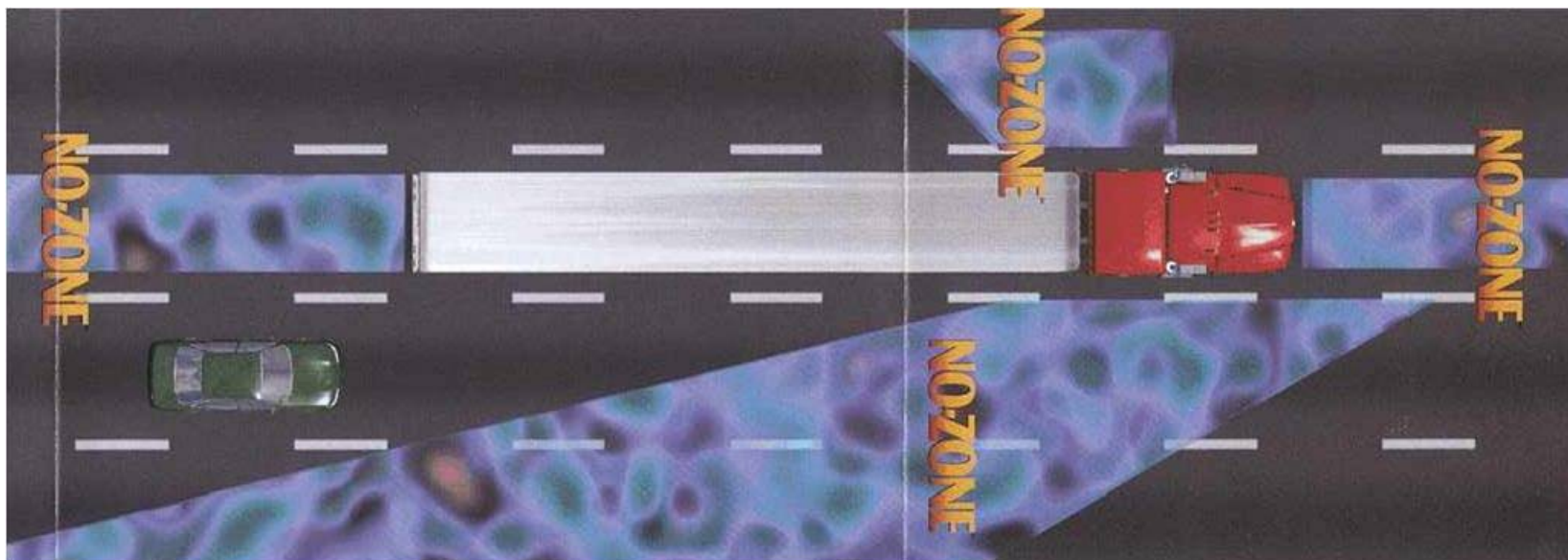


Following Distance (Cont.)

- ***When the vehicle in front of you passes a fixed object (for example, a telephone pole or mailbox), count one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two, etc. before you pass that same fixed object to determine your following distance***
- ***Stay well behind larger commercial vehicles so you can see around them for potential hazards***
- ***When in traffic, if you cannot see the vehicle mirrors in front of you, you may be in their blind spot; avoid doing so***



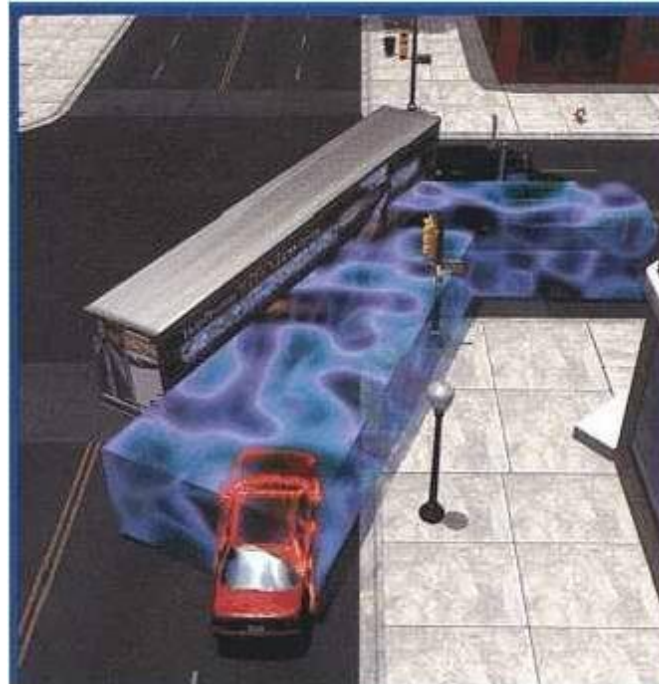
“No Zones”



***Know the
“No Zones”***



Right Hand Turns



***Don't get caught in wide
right hand turns***



Mirrors



Adjust mirrors so you can barely see the edge of the van in the mirror.

When changing lanes, always check for blind spots by first leaning forward in your seat to change your sight angle and then by turning your head.

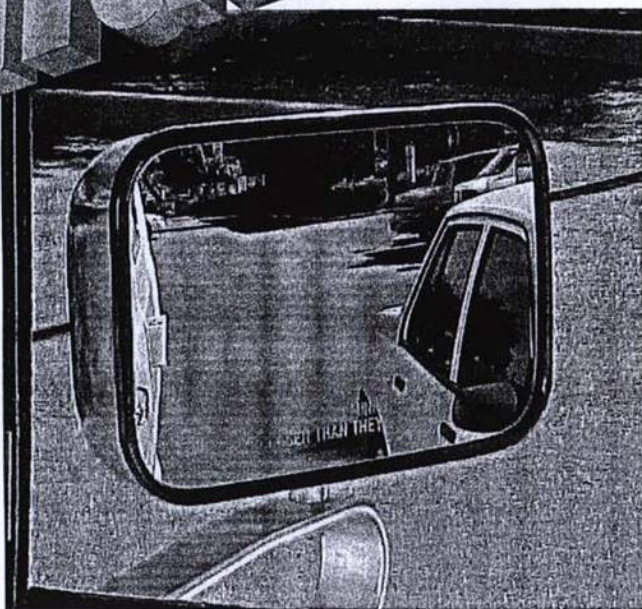
Scan mirrors every 3-5 seconds.

The biggest blind spot is directly behind the vehicle.

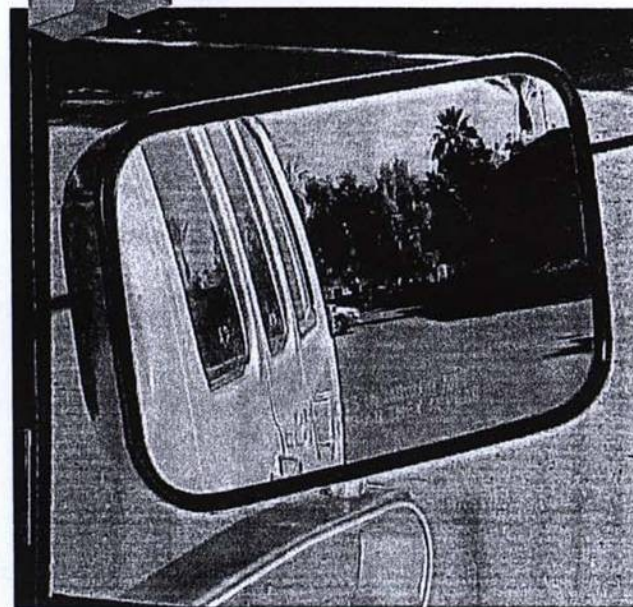


Mirrors (Cont.)

RIGHT !!



WRONG !





Driving Tips (Cont.)

- ***Before entering an intersection, scan all directions, cover the brake with your foot and look for***
 - ***Traffic - be aware of changing traffic signals, vehicles running red lights or making a right turn on red***
 - ***Pedestrians, bicyclists and animals***
 - ***Trains, school buses or other large transporters***
- ***Always scan ahead***
 - ***12-15 seconds***
 - ***1-2 city blocks***



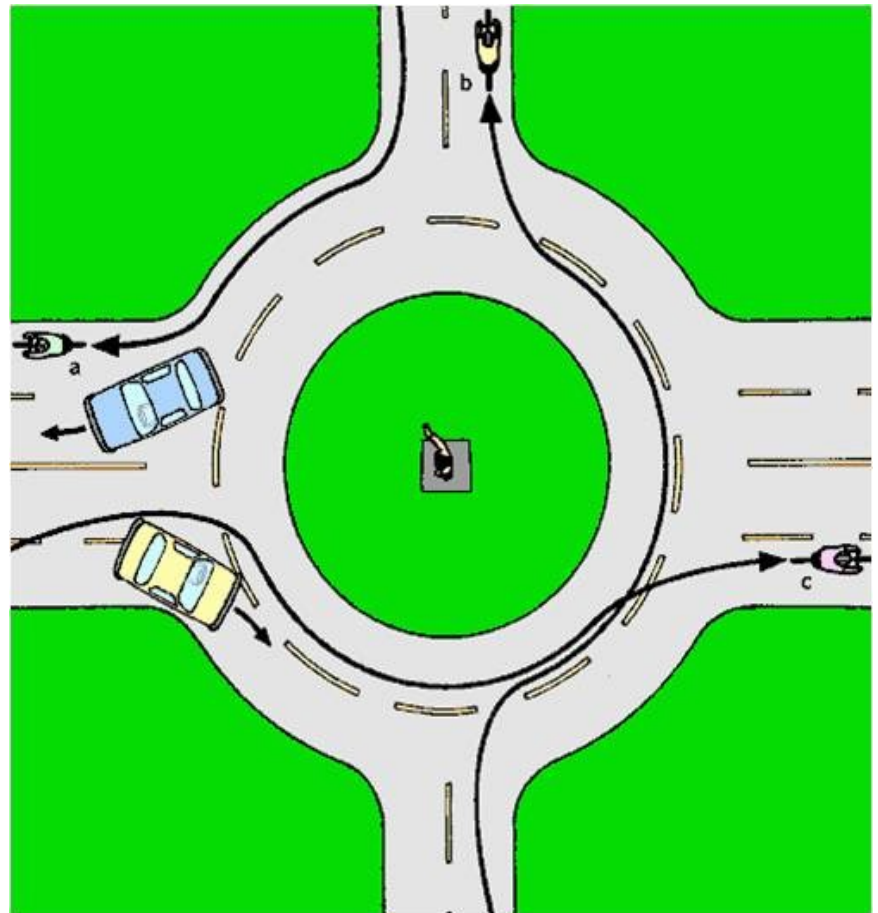
Driving Tips (Cont.)

- ***Maneuvers around other vehicles can be dangerous, so ALWAYS leave plenty of space behind the vehicle ahead***
- ***Stop far enough behind the vehicle so that you can see their rear tires and pavement behind the vehicle***
- ***Always communicate your intentions by using your turn signals***
- ***A turn signal must be given continuously during at least the last 100 feet traveled before turning***



Driving Tips (Cont.)

- ***When entering a rotary, remember you have less visibility and less maneuverability***
- ***Maintain a cushion of safety around the vehicle***





Minimizing Rollovers



Slow down and drive cautiously, especially on rural roads.

Shoulders, ditches and embankments, as well as on and off ramps, create the potential for vehicle roll over.



Minimizing Rollovers (Cont.)

- ***Reduce your speed **BELOW** the speed limit posted for all turns and poor road conditions***
- ***While the posted speed limit may be safe for cars, it **MAY NOT** be for passenger vans***
- ***If the van's wheels drop off the roadway, gradually reduce speed and steer back onto the roadway when it is safe to do so. Avoid panic-like steering and hard braking***



Minimizing Rollovers (Cont.)

- **Do not load items on top of the vehicle or tow a trailer**
- **Do not overload the vehicle with passengers and/or equipment**
- **Passengers should be distributed evenly from side to side for balance and *sit towards the front* of the vehicle**
- **Do not stack equipment/luggage high enough for it to become a projectile in the case of an accident**
- ***Always* keep speeds at or below the posted speed limit as road or traffic conditions**



Proper Driving Position



**Recline seat back.
Tilt wheel down.
Move seat
rearward
UNTILL YOU ARE
APPROX 10 inches
away from
steering wheel.
ALWAYS wear seat
belts.**



**This
decreases
arm fatigue
and reduces
injuries.**



**Position both
hands on the
steering wheel at
9:00 and 3:00 or**

**Keep two
hands on the
steering
wheel at all
times.**



Driver Responsibilities

- ***MUST wear seat belt at ALL times***
- ***Know the van evacuation policy***
 - ***The van may have multiple passenger doors for egress***
- ***Ensure all passengers adhere to the terms of the Passenger Van Policy at all times***
- ***Ensure all doors are locked and passengers are distributed in the appropriate seating positions and wearing seat belts***



The Driver (Cont.)

- ***Cell phones are for emergencies only, and are to be used **only** when the van is safely parked.***
- ***No food, drinks, reading or smoking allowed while driving is prohibited.***
- ***Read maps only when the van is safely parked.***
- ***Your passengers count on you to be courteous to other drivers and keep them safe.***
- ***Also, if I am assigned to drive a 15 Passenger Van, I will contact Transportation Officer for additional required hands on training.***



The Vehicle

- ***Always drive with your headlights on to be seen by other traffic***
- ***Perform pre-trip inspections and notify appropriate person of any vehicle defects***
- ***Secure any loose items within the vehicle so they do not cause injuries in a crash. This includes trash that can interfere with the pedals or the operation of the vehicle***
- ***Never more than 15 people in a 15-passenger van including the driver (**less than 10 passengers recommended**)***



Passengers

- ***MUST wear seat belts at ALL times***
- ***Should not use interior lighting when transiting at night***
- ***Passengers should sit toward the front of the vehicle and be distributed evenly from side to side***
- ***Do not distract the driver***



Passenger Loading/Unloading

- ***Drivers should use good judgment to decide how, when and where to unload passengers safely***
- ***Always pick up and drop off passengers so that they do **NOT** have to cross traffic to get to their destination***
- ***Keep all passengers away from the front and rear of the vehicle when crossing***
- ***The use of a responsible spotter when loading, unloading, backing or parking is recommended to ensure no person or object is in harm's way.***



Aggressive Driving

- **Aggressive driving puts your life and those of your passengers in danger**
 - **It also endangers the lives of others on the road**
 - **Poor driving reflects badly on your organization**
- **Aggressive driving is:**
 - **Passing on the right when it is unsafe / illegal to do so**
 - **Tailgating**
 - **Excessive lane changes**
 - **Blocking traffic so they cannot pass**
- Speeding**



Avoiding Aggressive Drivers

- ***Do not cut people off***
- ***Do not tailgate***
- ***Use turn signals***
- ***Do not use inappropriate gestures or verbal taunts***
- ***Use horn sparingly***
- ***Allow other drivers to merge***
- ***Drive courteously***



Avoiding Aggressive Drivers (Cont.)

- ***Do not make eye contact***
- ***Do not engage in the confrontation***
- ***If a operator of another vehicle persist in attempting to engage in a confrontation, have a passenger call for emergency help and drive to a police station***



Fatigue

- ***Drivers must be well rested***
- ***Signs of fatigue***
 - ***Excessive yawning and blink***
 - ***Difficulty focusing and keeping eyes open***
 - ***Inattention and daydreaming***
- ***Only cure for fatigue is to sleep***
 - ***Stop and rest for 15-30 minutes***
 - ***Caffeine, loud music, cold air are only temporary cures for fatigue***





Fatigue (Cont.)

- ***Drivers experience more fatigue between midnight and 6 a.m.***
- ***Be aware that 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. is a time when fatigue is also common***
- ***On long trips, schedule rest stops every two hours***
- ***Drive during the day, if possible***
- ***Have someone awake in the front passenger seat***



Weather

- ***Check weather conditions prior to any trip***
- ***Be prepared not to go if conditions are extreme***
- ***Plan ahead and leave early to avoid making mistakes or becoming anxious***
- ***Ensure your travel schedule allows for unknown road conditions/hazards***



Crosswinds

- ***Because of the van's size and shape, you must be especially mindful of crosswinds***
- ***Crosswinds can be created by open fields, overpasses and bridges as well as exiting tunnels***
- ***Crosswinds are also created by larger vehicles and buses***



Backing Up

- ***Avoid backing up if at all possible***
- ***70% of van crashes involve backing into a stationary object***
- ***Consider alternatives to driving into a place in which you will need to back out***
- ***If you must back up the van, backing should be done upon arrival at locations, rather than when leaving***
- ***Whenever possible, back out to the left (the driver's side) for better visibility***
- ***Use outside mirrors to direct you***



Backing Up (Cont.)

- ***Avoid backing into traffic***
- ***Get out and check the area behind the van before backing***
- ***Turn on four-way flashers and back SLOWLY***
- ***Have a spotter assist you to back ONLY when they understand what is expected of them***
- ***There is a blind spot in front of the van which may prevent operators from seeing children and others of short stature walking in front of the van***
- ***Be aware of van passengers walking in front of the van as they board or exit the vehicle***



Animals

- ***Animals present a hazard to any vehicle, but more so with a 15-passenger van***
- ***Swerving to avoid animals is dangerous and may cause the vehicle to roll over***
- ***Crashes with deer can occur anytime; however, be on high alert Oct-Dec and at dawn and dusk.***
- ***Use high beams whenever possible***





Safety Belts

- **Safety belts *MUST* be worn at all times**
- ***In fatal, single-vehicle roll-overs involving 15-passenger vans over the past decade, 92% of belted occupants survived***
- ***Pull tightly on the shoulder belt strap so that the lap belt portion is snug over the pelvis and tops of thighs***
- ***NEVER place the shoulder belt strap behind you or under your arm as this causes traumatic injuries and makes the seat belt less effective***
- ***Note: Additional hands-on familiarization training is required for vans with a capacity of 15 or more passengers and will be provided by***



ROLL OVER ACCIDENT



***Do not let this be
you - drive
carefully!***



Passenger Van Driver Training

Driver Signature: _____

Driver (print): _____ Date: _____

I certify I have read and understand the Passenger Van Driver operating procedures.

Signature: _____

Supervisor: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Van Coordinator: _____ Date: _____

I certify the Driver successfully demonstrated safe Passenger Van operating procedures.

forward a copy of completed certificate to your immediate supervisor and the NAVO SAFETY
OFFICE